

### Remarks

In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 4 – 46 remain in this application. Claims 2, 3, and 47-50 have been canceled.

#### **1. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter**

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 26 - 46. The applicants also note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 3 – 4 and 16 – 18 are patentable, and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

#### **2. § 103 Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 23 – 25, and 47 - 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 4,867,694 to Short in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,845,234 to Brenner.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 2, 20 – 22 and 49 - 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable for obviousness over Short in view of Brenner and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,319 to Finlay.

The applicants maintain the arguments presented in their previous response, and do not concede the propriety of the Examiner's rejection. The applicants reserve their right to file one or more continuation applications to pursue the subject matter recited in the canceled claims.

Nonetheless, the applicants have chosen to amend claim 1 in an effort advance prosecution. The subject matter of original claim 3 is now recited in amended claim 1. Applicants have canceled claims 2 – 3 and claims 47 – 50.

Accordingly, claims 1, 4 – 25 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 26 – 46 were previously allowed.

### 3. Conclusion

Based upon the remarks and papers of record, Applicants believe the pending claims of the above-captioned application are in allowable form and patentable over the prior art of record. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims 1 and 4 – 46 and a prompt Notice of Allowance thereon.

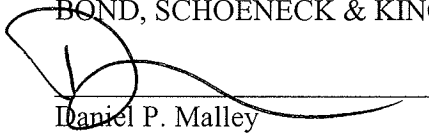
Applicants believe that a one-month extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 50-1546.

Please direct any questions or comments to Daniel P. Malley at (607) 330-4010.

Respectfully submitted,

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